

SPRING 2010

# Developments

Editor Sandi Terford



## ■ NEW BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENT REGION

In January GREDF chair Hal Oakley passed the torch to Connie Schroeder, who is the President/CEO of Illini Community Hospital in Pittsfield. GREDF thanks Oakley for his outstanding service and welcomes Schroeder in her new roll.

In addition to our new chairperson, GREDF is pleased to have four new Board of Directors members representing diverse backgrounds and hailing from throughout the region. They are Jim Thompson of Adams Electric Cooperative, Tom Marx of Marx Commercial Properties & Development, Paul Mugerditchian of DOT Foods Transportation Division and B. Stevens Plowman of Farmers & Merchants Trust Company. We look forward to the contributions our new members will make at GREDF.



Jim Thompson



Tom Marx



Paul Mugerditchian



B. Stevens Plowman

## ■ GREDF RECEIVES EXPORT AWARD

Charles Bell, GREDF Business Consultant, was presented with an Export Achievement Award at Bradley University during a recent visit. The award recognizes GREDF's continued support of local businesses' pursuit of a global market. Presenting Bell with the award are James Ryan, International Trade Specialist; Shari Stout, International Trade Specialist, U.S. Dept. of Commerce; Beatriz Poloney, Trade Agreement Specialist; and James F. Foley, Director, International Trade Center, Bradley University.



## ■ CONGRATULATIONS Quincy Area Visitors and Convention Bureau!

The Quincy Area Convention & Visitors Bureau was recognized at the 2010 Illinois Governors Conference on Tourism, held in Chicago February 17-19th. The Quincy Area CVB's "50 Great Things to See & Do" brochure captured the winning place for the "Best Leisure Promotion" at this year's conference. The 50 Great Things is a large-scale, highly visible brochure designed and compiled by the QACVB. It is advertising-free and features 50 area attractions. The piece is widely popular with visitors, potential inhabitants of Quincy, as well as locals who want to share our beautiful city with visiting friends and relatives.



The first edition of *eDevelopments*, an email newsletter from the Great River Economic Development Foundation has just been sent. Didn't receive it? Send your name and email to [greddf@gredf.org](mailto:greddf@gredf.org) to sign up. GREDF is sending a regular email newsletter in addition to this, our quarterly print newsletter, to better communicate who we are and what we do for the region. The topics will be varied, relevant and fresh and run the gamut from transportation issues, business profiles and workforce development to entrepreneurship and quality of life issues.



## ■ MEET DAN GIBBLE

Last fall, the Quincy Park District welcomed Dan Gibble as its Executive Director. Gibble worked for the Urbana Park District

for 18 years, most recently as its supervisor of recreation. He has a bachelor's degree in Leisure Studies from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Illinois Benedictine. He is currently pursuing a PhD. Gibble has a wife and three daughters. He said he is excited to work in a community that is so rich in history. "Over the years the park district has had a lot of foresight. I hope I can continue to contribute to that...to keep the park district as wonderful as it is," he said.

Gibble continues, "Like any unit of local government we have our challenges. We have a lot of grounds to mow, and maintain and great wooded parks, but those trees require care. So the idea is to use the best management practices of our profession and to do things wisely and efficiently." Quincy's 28 parks encompass more than 1,000 acres.

The focus for the park district over the next year will be maintenance rather than a lot of new projects, but Gibble says finishing the Cedar Creek Trail is near the top of their list. He'd also like to evaluate the expansive lawns in some parks and consider low- or no-mow options. This might be in the form of prairie grasses or other options to cut down on fuel consumption and maintenance costs. "We

want to beautify our parks but also conserve resources," he said. We welcome Dan to Quincy and look forward to his contributions.

### Other park district developments:

- In January the Quincy Park District joined forces with the city of Quincy and Adams County with the goal of completing a hike-and-bike trail connecting South Park and St. Charles Drive.
- Boots Bush Park is currently undergoing improvements including the creation of two regulation soccer fields. The renovations should be completed this spring. This complex hosts numerous soccer events, the Dogwood Bowl and other athletic activities. These improvements will be a great asset to the park system. *Photo courtesy of Phil Bellis.*

**DID YOU KNOW...** the Quincy Area Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates that soccer tournaments held at Quincy's soccer fields and indoor complexes have a 2.7 million dollar economic impact locally.

## ■ HQBD ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The 32nd Annual Meeting and Recognition for the Historic Quincy Business District was held in early February. Numerous businesses and individuals were recognized for their hard work and support of the HQBD. Award recipients include:

*Business of the Year: Celia's Gifts and More*

*2009 Volunteer of the year: Sue Schwartz of Suzy's Unique Boutique*

*HQBD Design Committee Award: Bee Line Express*

*Economic Development Committee Award: Austin Properties*

*Organization Committee Award: Joy Berhorst of Domestic, Etc.*

*Promotion Committee Award: Gerilyn Malone of Premier Diva*

*Twenty-four businesses were also awarded with "Seals of Excellence".*

### The 2010 HQBD Board of Directors are:

Todd Shackelford, Sr. Family Resource Center, President; Carol Lewis, Quincy Medical Group, Vice President; Bret Austin, Austin Properties, Treasurer; Sydne Holder, Out to Lunch, Secretary; \*Ben Bumbry; Nancy Dolan, Quincy Public Library; Rob Ebbing, Oakley-Lindsay Center; \*Jack Holtschlag, JH Concrete; Myron Kirsch, Coldwell Banker/Mays Real estate; Mark Reuschel, State Street Bank; Jacob Scholz, Scholz & Scholz; Sue Schwartz, Suzy's Unique Boutique; Randy Stocker, Great Debate Books; Ex-Officio: Bob Mays, Chuck Bevelheimer.

*\*Denotes City of Quincy Appointment*



## ■ FOCUS ON RIVERS - UMIMRA CONFERENCE

The Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers Association held its annual conference in East Peoria in February. The conference focused on the importance of the rivers (the inland waterways) to economic well-being and development of the tri-state region. Congressman Aaron Schock was the keynote speaker.

Topics included: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Flood Outlook for 2010, the Impact of Levees on Navigation, an Ursa Farmers Co-op Overview of the Levee Safety Act & Levee Certification National Perspectives and the Impact of Climate Change on Rain Cycles, a discussion moderated by Rich Cain, WGEM.

As part of the conference, Roger Sutter and Brent Hoerr from the Fabius Drainage District as well as representatives from levee and drainage districts throughout the tri-state area discussed issues and made comments about levee repair, maintenance, certification and funding. Charles Bell, of the Quincy Entrepreneurship Center, attended the conference as a representative of the Tri-State Development Summit and GREDF.

Mike Klingner, of Klingner & Associates, is the UMIMRA vice-chairman and a former chairman of GREDF. His firm represents several levee and drainage districts and questioned the USACE on a number of issues. Klingner stated that spring flooding is a real possibility for the area. "One of the

things we're concerned about are the risks we're seeing with some of the snow north of us and the high moisture and the precipitation we had last year. It was about 150% of what is normal for this area, so there's a lot of immediate concern of what the risk of flooding is and if we can handle it."

Both Congressman Phil Hare, who was the lead sponsor on the request for Stimulus Program funding for the Mid America Intermodal Regional Port, and Congressman Schock have worked closely with GREDF and the Tri-State Development Summit on river issues. For more information on UMIMRA, visit [www.umimra.org](http://www.umimra.org).





## LOCAL GOVERNMENT TELE-INSTITUTES SERIES



Illinois community leaders are dealing with many changes, and local government officials are challenged with obtaining necessary information to make decisions regarding policy and delivery of services. To help elected officials deal with these issues, University of Illinois Extension offers a variety of educational programs to local government officials in Illinois.

This local government education series addresses issues impacting counties and communities in Illinois. Programs are broadcast over a statewide audio-teleconferencing system through Illinois County Extension Offices. Program participants are able to interact with program speakers as well as exchange innovative ideas and viewpoints. The informal program setting allows participants to join fellow officials from across the state to discuss topics of interest and concern in a timely, convenient manner.

Each Tele-Institute qualifies for 2 hours of general Certified County Officials (CCO) Credit. Sessions are held at University of Illinois Extension offices (330 S. 36th St. in Quincy and 111 W. Washington in Mt. Sterling). These programs are free to participants. Upcoming topics include:

### COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING: LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

March 25th, 3-5 p.m.

Local governments have a responsibility to their communities to protect the health and welfare of their citizens. With that responsibility comes looking into the future of a community as it constantly changes and evolves with the times and the citizens' needs. The focus of this program will be to highlight communities who have successfully completed a comprehensive plan and how that information guided the policy decisions of local government officials.

### TAXES: FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

April 22nd, 3-5 p.m.

Taxes are inevitable and necessary. Taxes are different in all communities. They help fund the many services local governments provide to their communities. What taxes are right for your community? Is your community maximizing its tax base? Or, are your taxes driving away business to other areas?

For more information, contact Shelby Crow at University of Illinois Extension, 330 S. 36th St., Quincy or call (217) 223-8380. To register online to attend sessions in Quincy and Mt. Sterling visit [www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams).

## EXTENSION WORKS CLOSELY WITH COMMUNITIES



*The Safe Routes to School Project included improvement work shown here at Monroe School as well as St. Dominic's and Baldwin schools in Quincy.*

Extension has worked closely with the City of Quincy for several years. This partnership has brought in \$1.28 million for city infrastructure projects. Extension has helped the city obtain these grants through the research provided by local Community & Economic Development Coordinator, Jenny Sousa.

One of the programs that Jenny provides assistance with is the Safe Routes to School Program through the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Government. Jenny provided countless hours to distribute surveys in all of the elementary schools including a parent survey and a student travel survey that allowed us to compile the negative and positive influences on students walking and biking to school in our community and pinpoint areas of distress. Jenny started a committee of representatives from local government and schools to identify and design a School Travel Plan. This is just one example of a collaborative project that resulted in over \$700,000 in infrastructure funds coming into Adams County. Other collaborative efforts include a Riverfront Development Project, and working with the township, county, and city on a trail project.



## ■ LAND STEWARDSHIP COURSE OFFERED IN WESTERN ILLINOIS

Living on the Land is for anyone interested in learning how to better manage and care for your property. Participants will learn how to make the land more productive, make pastures more reliable, insure wells and septic systems are functioning properly and increase your understanding of how the whole system is tied together. The goal of Living on the Land is to assist small acreage owners in being good stewards of their properties and their surrounding environment by conserving natural resources and protecting water.

The program will cover the following topics:

**GOAL SETTING** - Resource inventory, setting goals, laws and regulations, helpful resources

**SOILS** - Soils on your property, soil quality, soil testing and fertility, erosion control

**WATER** - Water quality & quantity, well & septic system management, pond and streams

**PLANTS** - Weed, grass and legume identification, weed/plant management in pastures

**WILDLIFE** - Managing invited and uninvited critters, working with nature

**SUSTAINABILITY** - Managing your property for the long term, whole farm assessments

The program will be held Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., from June 1 through July 20. The location will rotate throughout western Illinois (Adams, Brown, Hancock, McDonough, Pike and Schuyler counties). The cost is \$200 per individual or \$300 per couple. (Couples receive one manual.)

**Pre-registration is required and due by May 15.** Participants can register online at [www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams).

For more information contact Mike Roegge at University of Illinois Extension, Adams/Brown Unit at (217) 223-8380 or [roeggem@illinois.edu](mailto:roeggem@illinois.edu).



## ■ YP QUINCY ACTIVITIES

**YP GREEN SERIES** - YP Quincy in conjunction with the Adams County Green Coalition is offering a free series on Green Issues. The first three sessions focused on “greening” your life, home and business. The Adams County Green Coalition hosted a business forum following the March 9 “Green Your Business” session for businesses to learn and share green practices with each other. The fourth session; Green Your Community will be held on April 13. All sessions are free and open to the public. Email Shelby Crow ([sschoon@illinois.edu](mailto:sschoon@illinois.edu)) for registration information.

**GET TO KNOW THE CEO** - Ted Averkamp, President and CEO of Mercantile Bancorp, Inc., was YP Quincy’s host for

the inaugural “Get To Know The CEO” on February 2. This is a new activity for YP Quincy that will take place each quarter at a new business or organization in and around Quincy. The series will give YP Quincy members the opportunity to network with and learn from local business leaders. Nearly 30 people attended the first session. Ted shared with the group background information on Mercantile Bancorp and his experiences as his career eventually led him to become President and CEO of the organization. The next quarterly event will be held on May 5 at JWCC with Dr. Klinkar.



## ■ WHAT IS A CO-OP?

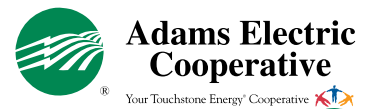
A cooperative is a business that belongs to, and is controlled by, the people who use its services. It can be defined as a democratic association of persons organized to provide themselves a service under a plan that eliminates entrepreneur profit. A cooperative is voluntarily owned and controlled by its members and operated for them and by them on a non-profit or cost basis.

**Why Cooperatives?** There is a profit in providing electricity to cities and towns. Since many residents live close together, the cost of materials can be divided between several people.

In rural areas, that is not the case. With several miles of line between residents, typical businesses had no interest in serving these areas. That’s understandable because there wasn’t a profit in it. It would cost too much to build lines and maintain them with customers so few and far between. How, then, would farmers, rural homeowners and businesses get electricity? Cooperatives are not focused on making a profit but simply providing a service for a group of members. They are private and independent, owned by the members they serve.

Adams Electric Cooperative currently serve over 8,500 members and maintain over 2,220 miles of electric lines in rural Adams, Brown and Schuyler counties, as well as parts of Pike, Hancock, McDonough and Fulton counties. Forty-one employees operate the cooperative. AEC is one of about 1,000 rural electric cooperatives in the United States. The ultimate control of the organization is through a board of directors elected by the members of the cooperative.

Adams Electric Cooperative is just one example of the many fine co-ops serving our area. Local member co-ops also thrive in the financial, agricultural, insurance, communications and education industries.



## HAPPENINGS

### WIU Alumni Awards

The December Commencement exercises at Western Illinois University included the presentation of Alumni Achievement Awards to five individuals. Among them were **Daniel D. Voorhis** of Macomb. Voorhis is the director of Western's Illinois Small Business Development Center. **Tom Carper**, former mayor of Macomb, also received the alumni award. Carper is the Chairman of the National Amtrak Board. GREDF congratulates both of these friends and partners.



Tom Carper



Daniel D. Voorhis

### Quincy University Continues Anniversary Celebration

Quincy University hosted an "Evening with the Franciscans" on February 20th to thank the Franciscans of the past and today for 150 years of service and dedication to the school. Nearly 200 people attend the evening which included dinner, a reception, alumni art auction and the company of Franciscans, alumni and friends. "The evening was a wonderful, heartfelt event that included testimonials from venerable members of our community giving tribute to six friars who have gone before us," stated QU President Robert Gervasi. QU continues its anniversary celebration through its May 23rd commencement.



### Franklin Square Developments

Site samples were taken in early December at the former Franklin Square site at 3rd and State streets. Owner and Developer MWF Properties says the three-story, 48-unit housing development with underground parking is a perfect fit for the location and anticipates work beginning this spring. The housing development helps address a key component of Teska's downtown revitalization plan.

### New Location for Marlboro Wire

In November, Marlboro Wire had good news to share. The company, a manufacturer of household and commercial products, announced it would relocate to a new site in the Schneidman Industrial Park. The move will allow the company to expand and create new jobs. GREDF, which helped bring Marlboro Wire to Quincy, is working to help fill the company's former facility.



### US 34 Update

A public meeting was held at Biggsville High School March 15th to discuss the status of US highway 34. Tom A. Lacy, Studies and Plans Engineer at IDOT, provided a progress update on the Henderson/Warren US 34 Corridor. When completed, this 22-mile section will connect the Burlington to Des Moines four lane corridor in Iowa to Interstate 74 in the Monmouth/Galesburg area. This is one of the remaining Tri-State Summit priorities.

## GOOD NEWS FROM MIDLAND PAPER

Good news in a recent email GREDF received from Midland Paper, Packaging & Supplies General Manager, Ken Sparrow: "Midland Paper's 2009 in Quincy nicely beat its 2008 results. We are approaching our 5th anniversary in Quincy and this location has proven to be a very solid contributor to the company. 2010 has gotten off to a similar start, with robust growth year-to-date. I know that we all hear the bad news, but people also need to hear the good. Our results are not because of tremendous natural demand – in fact, demand for our products is down nationally. The reason that we continue to grow is that we "relentlessly pursue" (to borrow a phrase from Ross Centanni – he used the phrase at times and I always liked the implications of "relentless pursuit") new market share. There's more business out there in many markets than some folks realize, and our service platform usually is a competitive advantage compared to out-of-area suppliers. At Midland we're trying to control our own destiny and not allow ourselves to be at the mercy of the economy."



## 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Connie Schroeder** *Chairperson*  
Illini Community Hospital

**Cheryl Waterman** *Vice-Chairperson*  
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**Charles Davis** *Treasurer*  
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**Dick Klusmeyer** Highway Engineer

**John Johnson** County Board/Retired,  
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opportunities in programs and employment.*

## ■ THE CENSUS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This month Americans will receive the decennial census in their mailboxes. Census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as boundaries of legislative districts. In addition, every year the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities, based, in part, on census data. Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, job training, child-care, senior citizen centers, and more. Be sure to complete your census and return it promptly.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** 7th Annual Midsummer Arts Faire is June 25-27! Visit [ArtsFaire.org](http://ArtsFaire.org).



## ■ INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION OF QUINCY ANNUAL MEETING

The Industrial Association of Quincy will hold its 2010 annual meeting at noon on June 14 in the Quincy University cafeteria. The featured speaker for the event is William C. Dunkelberg of Pennsylvania. Dunkelberg is currently Professor of Economics at the School of Business and Management, Temple University. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from

the University of Michigan. Dr. Dunkelberg is a nationally known authority on small business, entrepreneurship, consumer behavior and consumer credit and government policy. He has authored and co-authored numerous books and articles and writes a monthly small business economic report for the National Federation of Independent Business. Reservations for the luncheon may be made by contacting GREDF at (217) 223-4313 or [gredf@gredf.org](mailto:gredf@gredf.org). The cost is \$15 per person.